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FRONT PATRIOTIQUE RWANDAIS RWANDESE PATRIOTIC FRONT

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Washington, May 24, 1994

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Mr Iqbal Riza, the Special Envoy of the U.N. Secretary General, is visiting Rwanda. Mr. Riza met the Chairman of RPF, Col. Alex Kanyarengwe, and other members of RPF leadership at Mulindi on May 24, 1994.

Mr. Riza indicated that the purpose of his visit with RPF was to discuss the following issues:

1. U.N. control of Kigali airport.
2. Commencement of negotiations between RPF and the self-styled interim government based at Gitarama.
3. The operations of the 5,500 U.N. force whose deployment in Rwanda the Security Council authorized by Resolution 918/1994 of May 16, 1994.

Mr. Riza was assured by the RPF of its commitment to cooperate fully with the proposed U.N. humanitarian force. However, RPF is still of the view that the size of the proposed force is too large for its mission.

Regarding the Airport, Mr. Riza was informed that RPF is providing and shall continue to provide its security. The U.N. will have unrestricted access and use of this facility. The UNAMIR is already using the Airport.

The RPF reiterated its position regarding dealings with the so-called interim government which usurped power by unconstitutional means and is responsible for genocide in Rwanda. The RPF does not recognize the legitimacy of that government of murderers and shall not enter negotiations with it. Mr. Riza was informed that RPF is in fact appalled that the U.N. continues to recognize and deal with the said government.

Mr. Riza was informed that the RPF is ready to discuss ceasefire proposals with the military subject to the fulfillment of certain conditions. The armed forces must particularly stop the massacres and promise to cooperate in apprehending the perpetrators of genocide.

For the Rwandese Patriotic Front

Gahima

Mr. Gerald Gahima
Special Envoy to the U.N. and U.S.A.